

1947

THE BARTERED BRIDE

by BEDRICH SMETANA



Photo, Courtesy of R. Mcrawetz

*Under the distinguished patronage of
His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario and Mrs. Ray Lawson*

Presented by

THE OPERA SCHOOL OF THE TORONTO CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

EATON AUDITORIUM

Monday and Tuesday, April 28th and 29th, 1947

at 8.30 o'clock

THE BARTERED BRIDE

BY BEDRICH SMETANA

Original Libretto by KARL SABINA

New English Book by FELIX BRENTANO

Lyrics by MARION FARQUHAR

Cast in order of Appearance

JENIK, <i>Micha's son by his first wife</i>	EARL DICK
MARIE, <i>daughter of Krusina and Ludmila</i>	ELIZABETH BENSON GUY
KECAL, <i>a marriage broker</i>	ANDREW MACMILLAN
KRUSINA, <i>a rich peasant</i>	ROBERT DOREE
LUDMILA, <i>his wife</i>	LOUISE ROY
A VILLAGE MUSICIAN	JACK MERIGOLD
VASEK, <i>son of Micha and Hata</i>	VICTOR WHITE
SPRINGER, <i>Circus-master</i>	HARVEY CRONIER
ESMERALDA	HELEN CHEVRIER
CRACKER JACK, <i>strong man</i>	BRUCE CATTON
MURRU, <i>cannibal</i>	ROBERT RUSSEL
RADILA, <i>tight rope walker</i>	NATALIA BUTKO
MICHA, <i>a rich landowner</i>	DAVID HUGHES
HATA, <i>his wife</i>	GERTRUDE CARLYLE
CHILDREN	LAWRENCE K. LAW
	DIANNE MURPHY
	RAYMOND REMILLARD

Conductor: NICHOLAS GOLDSCHMIDT

Stage Director: FELIX BRENTANO

Choreography by BORIS VOLKOFF

Scenery designed by JOHN HALL

Costumes by PATRICIA CARD

ACT I —On a village square in Czechoslovakia

INTERMISSION—TEN MINUTES

ACT II —Inside the village inn

INTERMISSION—TEN MINUTES

ACT III—Same scene as Act I

Production Staff

Stage Manager	DIANA THOMSON
Assistant Stage Manager	GRATIEN LANDRY
Concert Master and Assistant Conductor	VICTOR FELDBRILL
Assistant Conductors	GEORGE CRUM, GEORGE HURST, CLERMONT PEPIN
Property Manager	JOAN CHALMERS
Assistant Property Managers,	NORMA GOOD, PROVIE ROSE, MARGUERITE HACKNEY

Chorus—

Grace Armstrong, Harriett Banting, Barbara Beierl, Selma Bialuski, Joan Bignell, Beth Corrigan, Susan Crawford, Norma Good, Mary Greenwood, Marguerite Hackney, Marjory Hays, Malca Laskin, Gladys LeTroy, Mary Morrison, Norma Reid, Provie Rose, Jean Marie Scott, Diana Thomson, Marguerite Tanner, Adrienne White. Jack Asher, Arthur Bardsley, Henry Bialuski, Colin Blair, George Burles, Adam Gaw, Jack Henderson, Gratien Landry, William Lonsdale, Max Miller, Bertrand Rawlyk, Frank Smart, Ronald Stewart, Norman Summers, Jacob Voth, Joseph Ward.

Ballet—

Natalie Butko, Ruth Carse, Barbara Ferguson, Patricia Vanstone, Helen Zwior. Albert Campitelli, Bill Diver, Donald Gillies, Sydney Vousden.

THE BARTERED BRIDE • SYNOPSIS

Act I

It is Springtime in a little Bohemian village at the turn of the century. A gay young crowd is dancing around the maypole and making good-natured fun of Marie and Jenik, the young lovers. Suddenly the festivity is interrupted by some disconcerting news. It seems that Marie's parents have agreed to give her in marriage to another boy. Soon we find out that Kecal, the marriage-broker, is at the bottom of it all. He has arranged Marie's marriage to a rich boy from another village.

Act II

Inside the Inn we meet Vasek, the boy Marie is supposed to marry. The poor boy is slightly retarded in his mental development and hampered by a speech impediment. Marie meets him and tries to talk him out of the marriage without disclosing her identity. A little later Kecal and Jenik appear at the Inn and Kecal tries his best to talk Jenik out of his puppy love. He even offers him money which the poor farm hand Jenik could certainly use. He threatens him with the police because Jenik keeps his family and origin a secret — but to no avail. Only when Jenik hears that Kecal is acting on behalf of one Tobias Micha's son he suddenly changes his mind and to the shock of the villagers signs an agreement to give up Marie to Tobias Micha's son for 300 Ducats.

Act III

A strolling circus is advertising its performance with some free samples—but unfortunately the main attraction is missing, the trained bear. It seems the man who performs inside the bearskin has gone on a binge, and when the simpleton Vasek appears, he is drafted as substitute for the missing man. Meanwhile Marie has heard about the agreement Jenik made to sell their love for money and the "Bartered Bride," hurt in her pride, agrees to marry Vasek. But Jenik steps forward and claims Marie for himself. He agreed to give her up to Micha's son—and he himself is Micha's son by his first wife. The scheming marriage broker is fooled out of his match and 300 Ducats on top, and when Vasek appears and makes a laughing stock of himself in the bearskin everybody gives his blessing to Marie and Jenik, and life is as it was in the little Bohemian village.